



# STATE SENATOR **Wayne Kuipers**

## 30<sup>TH</sup> SENATE DISTRICT E-MAIL UPDATE



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### **Senator Kuipers and Habitat for Humanity Partner for Event**

Please join Senator Kuipers and JP's Coffee and Espresso Bar in supporting Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity. On Saturday, May 20 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Senator Kuipers will be serving coffee to earn tips for Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity. All donations will go to assist in building homes for families in West Michigan. JP's is located at 57 East 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Holland.

### **Senate Acts to Keep Dangerous Criminals off the Street**

The Michigan Senate unanimously passed legislation that clearly states that Michigan Department of Corrections officials do not have to automatically release an offender accused of parole violations simply because an administrative hearing is not held within 45 days of incarceration. Supporters say the change is needed after Patrick Selepak, a man charged with killing two Macomb County residents and a Genesee County man in February, was inadvertently released. According to testimony during a recent Senate hearing, corrections officials have released 41 convicted felons in the past year due to the mistaken belief that convicts must be released if they have not had a hearing within 45 of their arrest.

### **Repeat Drunk Drivers Face Harsher Punishment**

Convicted drunk drivers who repeatedly get behind the wheel while intoxicated could receive harsher punishment for their violations under new legislation in the Senate. Currently, a person may be charged with a felony for a third drunk-driving conviction if it occurs within 10 years of the first conviction. But if a third conviction occurs more than 10 years after the first, it is merely a misdemeanor punishable by up to 93 days in jail—the punishment accorded a first offense. Senate Bill (SB) 1241 would amend the law, making any third or subsequent drunk-driving conviction a felony, regardless of the time passed between convictions.

### **Congressional Apportionments**

The Senate approved a resolution urging the United States Congress to adopt a constitutional amendment that would ensure that congressional seat apportionment be based on the census count of legal citizens only. Senate Resolution 105 is in response to the impact that illegal immigrants are having on distribution of congressional seats. Seats are apportioned based on each state's population, including both legal and non-legal residents. While Michigan and other states have populations of more than 95 percent legal U.S. citizens, that's not the case for all states. Consider the 31<sup>st</sup> Congressional District in California where only 60 percent of the "persons" counted were listed as legal citizens. Incredibly, the remaining 40 percent can impact congressional representation despite the fact that they cannot legally vote. Continued loss of congressional representation for states like Michigan will have significant long-term policy impact. For example, issues such as water diversion from the Great Lakes could be tilted toward Southwestern states like Arizona if the current apportionment system continues.